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Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 43051601
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 43051505
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430

Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The greatest Jihad is to battle your own soul. To fight the evil within yourself.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:04 Evening: 17:17 Dawn: 5:42 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 7:12 (tomorrow)

Nader Ebrahimi's "Forty Short Letters to My Wife" published in Portuguese

TEHRAN – The book "Forty Short Letters to My Wife" written by the late Iranian author Nader Ebrahimi has been translated into Portuguese by Khatereh Kianinejad and published by Intelectual Editora, a publisher in Portugal.

The book is a collection of letters that Ebrahimi wrote to his wife while practicing the art of calligraphy, Mehr reported.

In the letters, he talks about their life together, their love, and their problems, openly discussing their difficulties and shared anxieties. For Ebrahimi the writing of these letters was not just an occasion for practicing calligraphy but an exercise in exploring his understanding of life, love, and the relationship between husband and wife.

"Honey, happiness is not a letter that one day a postman rings the bell to hand over. Happiness can come from making a little figurine from a piece of soft clay; as simple as that. By God, it's as simple as that. But bear in mind that the quality of the clay should be of love and faith, not from anything else," Ebrahimi wrote in one of his letters.

The original edition in Persian was published in 2011. In 2015, the Novin Audio Book Institute released an audio version of the book. It has also been rendered into English and German in the past years.

Nader Ebrahimi (1936 – 2008) was an Iranian writer, screenwriter, photographer, director, actor, songwriter, and a renowned contemporary novelist.

He earned his diploma in Persian literature, and then received his BA in English literature. He worked in various jobs, including teaching and banking. He directed some TV series and documentaries, but he's best known as a novelist.

Ebrahimi was the author of many novels, including "Three Looks at the Man Coming From", "A Man in Last Banishment", "On the Blue Red Paths", "Tomorrow Is Not Like Today", "Ibn Mashghaleh", "A Man in Permanent Exile", "Once More, the Town That I Loved", "Fire Without Smoke", and "Dragon's Tale".

As a filmmaker, he directed the TV series "Fire Without Smoke" in the early 1970s based on his own novel. He also made a screen adaptation called "The Sound of the Desert" in 1975. His second and last feature was "The Day When the Air Stopped".

He also directed "Hami and Kami in Long Journeys to Their Homeland", another TV series that was broadcast by the Iranian state TV before the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979.

Cartoon of Day

Christmas in Gaza
Alaa Allagta from Palestine

Resistance Theater Festival to honor Martyr Soleimani with selected street performances

TEHRAN- The 20th International Resistance Theater Festival will dedicate a special section to street theater works selected from its previous 19th edition, aiming to honor and support the participating groups.

These selected works will be performed from January 1 to 7, 2026, as part of a section titled "Extension of Resistance," across nine provinces nationwide, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

The "Extension of Resistance" is specifically dedicated to commemorating Martyr General Qassem Soleimani and other martyrs of the Resistance axis, the report added.

A total of eleven street theater productions will be staged in Tehran, Kerman, Isfahan, Lorestan, Hormozgan, Hamedan, Khorasan Razavi, Kordestan, and Ilam, comprising 52 performances in total.

Organized by the Theater of Revolution and Sacred Defense Association and the Cultural Foundation for Revayat-e Fat'h, the festival is scheduled to be held in Tehran and various cities across the country during the Sacred Defense Week (September 22 to 29, 2026).

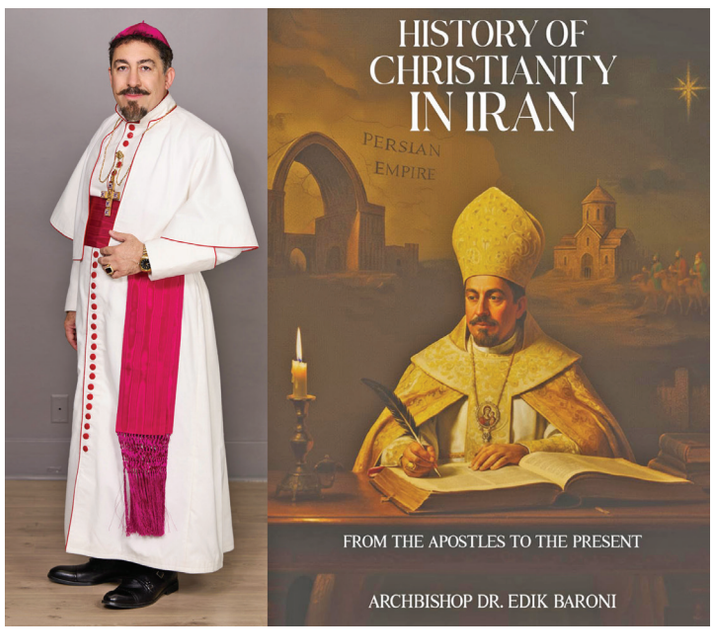
The 20th International Resistance Theater Festival will be hosted throughout Iran, welcoming audiences and artists from across the nation.

Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, a highly esteemed Iranian military strategist and prominent figure in the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), left an indelible mark on Iran's defense efforts. Born in 1957 in Qanat-e Malek, Iran, Soleimani devoted his entire life to safeguarding his country's interests. He gained widespread recognition for his crucial role in leading successful military campaigns, particularly in the battle against ISIS in Iraq and Syria. His exceptional strategic planning, exemplary leadership abilities, and unwavering commitment to preserving Iran's security earned him profound respect both within the military and among the Iranian populace.

General Soleimani, with his remarkable charm and fearless demeanor, commanded immense admiration from his comrades as well as the general public. His resolute dedication to safeguarding Iran's sovereignty and ensuring its security solidified his position as an emblem of fortitude and perseverance.

Despite facing numerous hurdles, such as international sanctions and political tensions, Soleimani remained an indispensable figure in Iran's military and foreign policies. His assassination in January 2020 had a seismic impact on the region, profoundly grieving the Iranian people and intensifying tensions between Iran and the United States. General Qassem Soleimani's impactful contributions to Iran's defense will forever be etched in the nation's memory, serving as a testament to his enduring influence on the geopolitical landscape of the region.

Exploring Iran's Christian past: a journey through Edik Baroni's book



This combination photo shows Archbishop Edik Baroni and the front cover of his book "History of Christianity in Iran: From the Apostles to the Present".

TEHRAN- Christianity has a long and intricate history in Iran, predating many other regions of the world. Iranian Christian communities have preserved their faith and cultural identity for centuries. Today, Iran hosts one of the oldest continuous Christian presences in West Asia, with Armenian, Assyrian, and other Christian minorities contributing significantly to Iran's diverse religious landscape. Recognizing this rich heritage is essential to understanding Iran's complex history and its multi-religious identity.

"History of Christianity in Iran: From the Apostles to the Present" is a comprehensive historical study that examines the deep and often overlooked relationship between Iran and the Christian tradition. Written by Iranian-Armenian scholar and Archbishop Dr. Edik Baroni, the book traces Christianity's presence in the Iranian world from antiquity to modern times, placing Iran at the center of a story often narrated solely from a Western perspective.

The work begins by re-examining Iran's earliest connection to Christianity, emphasizing the role of the Magi—widely identified in ancient sources as Persian priest-scholars—who were among the first to recognize and honor Jesus at his birth. The book further explores the presence of Iranians among the earliest witnesses of Christianity, highlighting the participation of peoples from the Elamite, Median, and Parthian regions during the events surrounding Pentecost, as recorded in early Christian and historical texts.

Rather than presenting Christianity as a foreign import, the book argues that the Iranian world played an active and formative role in the early expansion of the Christian faith. Through careful historical analysis, it documents how Christianity took root in Iranian lands long before it became dominant in Europe, developing through Armenian, Assyrian, and Persian Christian communities that preserved faith, language, and culture under shifting political and religious conditions.

Drawing on ecclesiastical history, regional sources, and cross-cultural scholarship, the book also examines the endurance of Iranian Christian communities through the Sassanian period, the Islamic era, and into the modern age. Particular attention is given to Armenian and Assyrian Christians of Iran, whose religious and cultural contributions form an integral part of the country's historical fabric.

As an Iranian-born Armenian scholar, Archbishop Edik Baroni approaches the subject not as an outsider, but as someone rooted in Iran's cultural and historical landscape. His work reflects a broader effort to reclaim Iran's multi-religious heritage and to present Christianity as one of the ancient spiritual traditions that have shaped Iranian civilization alongside others.

"History of Christianity in Iran" offers readers—both Iranian and international—a nuanced understanding of Iran's role in early Christian history and challenges simplified narratives that exclude Iran from the origins of global religious movements. As an Iranian-born Armenian Archbishop educated in Rome and active internationally, Dr. Edik Baroni brings both academic depth and lived cultural insight to this work. The book stands as a significant contribution to Iranian cultural history, religious studies, and inter-civilizational dialogue.

Niavaran Cultural Center to stage Burton Bumgarner's fast-paced farce "No Body Like Jimmy"

TEHRAN – The play "No Body Like Jimmy" written by the American playwright Burton Bumgarner will be staged at the Niavaran Cultural Center from December 24.

Directed by Ali Shahamati, the one-hour play has Ramin Abdollahi, Fardin Omidpanah, Ali Nahavandi, Pardis Hosseini, Atefeh Kashani, Shiva Khani, and Kamran Riazi in the cast, among others, ILNA reported.

A playful, lightly macabre story, "No Body Like Jimmy" relates the struggles of married couple Ralph and Eloise, as Ralph and his college pal Harold attempt to conceal a man they dub "Jimmy" at Eloise's political cocktail party. The only drawback is that "Jimmy" isn't quite alive.

Eloise is running for Congress and a small gathering for potential donors is planned by Nigel, her less-than-scrupulous campaign manager, and her husband Ralph. Just before the first guests arrive, Harold, Ralph's college roommate, shows up at the front door with a problem: he's driving around town with a dead body in his van and he doesn't know what to do with it.

Harold needs a place to stash Jimmy. In this hilarious comedy, Harold's timing couldn't be more awful as Ralph and Eloise are expecting a house full of major campaign donors in about five, four, three, two... The body arrives in the house just as the first guests arrive. What can they do? They dress the body up like a guest and call him Jimmy.

Burton Bumgarner grew up in North Carolina, where he now lives and works as a musician. He earned an undergraduate degree in music from Greensboro College, and a Master of Music degree from Southern Methodist University.

He began writing plays in 1994. He is a four-time winner of the Robert J. Pickering Award for Playwriting from the Coldwater (MI) Community Theater, and in 2004 he won the McLaren Memorial Comedy Playwriting Award from the Midland (TX) Community Theater. A member of the Dramatist Guild of America, Burton has over 80 scripts (comedies, dramas, one-acts, and 10-minute scripts) in publication.

Burton writes plays for schools and community theater. Some of his monologues are published in "The Big Book of Monologues" from Brooklyn Publishers. He also writes under the pseudonym Andrew Ross.

"No Body Like Jimmy" will remain on stage until January 8, 2026, at the Niavaran Cultural Center, located across from Niavaran Park on Pasdaran Street.